



In This Issue...

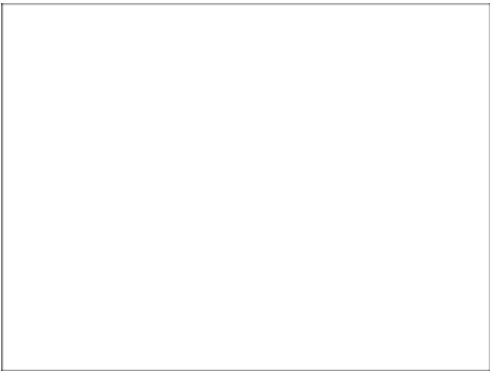
- *Directors Message*.....
- *Hydric Soils for Wetland Delineation Training*.....
- *LiDAR & ArcGIS Training*.....
- *AgroForestry Roundtable*.....
- *Wisconsin Air Quality Workshop*.....
- *WinPond/SITES Workshop*.....
- *Grazing Lands Team Activities*
- *Wetland Team Activities*
- *Wildlife Team Activities*
- *Personnel News*
- *Calendar*.....

Core Team Activities

GIS Spatial Analysis/ LiDAR Training in Arkansas

Dwain Daniels, CNTSC GIS Specialist, provided training on June 8, 2010, in use of ArcGIS software with the LiDAR digital elevation data recently acquired by Arkansas NRCS. One of the LiDAR elevation data applications is terrain analysis for soil surveys, so Daniels addressed use of the LiDAR data for both visualization and analysis. The 17 participants were introduced to methods to symbolize and generalize the LiDAR derived products for their optimal use. These materials will be used in similar workshop events in other locations to be held later this fiscal year.

For additional information, contact Dwain Daniels at 817-509-3358 or dwain.daniels@ftw.usda.gov.



Dwain Daniels, (far left) provides LiDAR training in Arkansas.

Agroforestry Roundtable Conducted in Washington, D.C.

The purpose of the May 25-26, 2010, Agroforestry Roundtable workshop was two-fold: 1) Increase awareness and support for expanding the application of agroforestry to address USDA priorities; and 2) Gain input from a broad diversity of invited stakeholders on a National Strategic Framework for Agroforestry that is being developed by the Interagency Agroforestry Team. When completed, the Strategic Framework will identify the most important future USDA emphasis areas for agroforestry research, development, and technology transfer, both nationally and in priority regions/watersheds. It will be used to develop goals for the USDA National Agroforestry Center and guide its future activities. It will also be used to strengthen existing and establish new partnerships among cooperators with a focus on improving the agroforestry assistance delivered to the owners/managers of working farms, forests, ranches, and communities. Douglas Wallace, CNTSC Agroforester in Lincoln, Nebraska, assisted with this Agroforestry Roundtable Workshop.

For additional information, contact Douglas Wallace at 402-437-5178 x4036, or douglas.wallace@ftw.usda.gov.

Air Quality and Atmospheric Change Workshop in Wisconsin

Lyn Kirschner, CNTSC Soil Conservationist, and Cherie LaFleur, CNTSC Environmental Engineer, were instructors for an Air Quality and Atmospheric Change workshop held at the West Madison Ag Research Station in Madison, Wisconsin, May 4-6, 2010. The participants were led through a series of presentations, discussions, and on-site case studies to determine the appropriate actions to address air quality concerns on both dairy and poultry production operations.

For additional information, contact Cherie LaFleur at 817-509-3303, or Lyn Kirschner, at 817-509-3553. They can also be reached by e-mail at cherie.lafleur@ftw.usda.gov or lyn.kirschner@ftw.usda.gov.

Cherie LaFleur (left) talks to a participant at the Wisconsin Air Quality Workshop.

WinPond/SITES Workshop Conducted in Wyoming

Tony G. Funderburk, P.E., CNTSC Agricultural Engineer, was an instructor for a WinPond/SITES (Stability & Integrity Technology for Earth Spillways) Workshop was in Casper, Wyoming on April 20-21, 2010. A total of 22 NRCS employees participated.

WinPond 2007 is a computer program for the field application of pond designs, intended to assist engineers, conservationists, and engineering technicians in the design of ponds and structures. The SITES computer model is instrumental in the design and rehab of watershed dams.

For training in the use of WinPond for the design of ponds, Tony G. Funderburk can be contacted at 817-509-3289 or tony.funderburk@ftw.usda.gov.

Grazing Lands Team Highlights

Enhancements to the Ecological Site Information System (ESIS) were released; the Ecological Site Description (ESD) component was updated; and the initial version of the Forage Suitability Group Description component was released. Net conference training sessions were held to describe these enhancements to ESIS.

Other team activities include:

- Continued participation with Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service to draft an Interagency Rangeland Ecological Site Description Handbook.
- Team members are participating and providing input to the two ad-hoc teams developed to define ESD business workflow process and develop requirements for an integrated soil-vegetation point data collection database.
- Assisted National Technology Support Centers and National Soil Survey Center to develop protocols for grouping soils in the development of forage suitability groups.
- Provided a presentation at Sustainable Rangeland Roundtable (SRR) meeting discussing the NRCS Rangeland National Resources Inventory field procedures and relationship to the SRR indicators.

For additional information, contact George Peacock, CNTSC Grazing Lands Team Leader, at 817-509-3211 or george.peacock@ftw.usda.gov.

Wetland Team Activities

Wetland Team Highlights

The Wetland Technology Development Team has helped develop and deliver wetland restoration, wetland plant identification, and wetland identification technical training courses at eight different locations, benefiting over 250 course participants. In addition, the technical note “Understanding Fluvial Systems: Wetlands, Streams, and Flood Plains” was released this quarter. The wetland team also provided assistance to NHQ in the development of the Food Security Act Wetland Identification Procedures, to be released as an appendix to the National Food Security Act Manual. The team has also completed revisions to the Wetland Restoration (657), Wetland Creation (658), and Wetland Enhancement (659) National Practice Standards, which are expected to be released in the 4th quarter of FY 2010.

For additional information, contact Norman Melvin, CNTSC Wetland Team Leader, at 817-509-3572 or norman.melvin@ftw.usda.gov.

Wildlife Team Activities

Wildlife Team Highlights

- Identified potential NRCS strategies to make lands in the Gulf Coast states more attractive to migrating shorebirds and waterfowl in hopes of sidetracking them before they arrive in the oil-damaged habitats.
- Working with an interagency team to develop the baseline assessment and environmental impact statement for the Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan.
- Hosted a Biology NetMeeting on conservation and management for lesser prairie-chickens, which occupy rangelands in the 5-state area surrounding the Texas panhandle.
- Assisting NTSC Technology Specialists and staff of the Conservation Delivery Streamlining Initiative to evaluate land use designations for conservation planning in a geospatial framework, specifically, how wildlife land may be defined in the future.
- At the request of the CNTSC Technical Advisory Board, the team is leading a central states work group to better integrate wildlife habitat considerations into the Web Soil Survey.
- Assisting the Resource Inventory and Assessment Division (RIAD) with the wildlife and wetlands sections of the Resources Conservation Act Appraisal. In part, this involves additional evaluation of the new NRI data.

For additional information, contact Steve Brady, CNTSC Wildlife Team Leader, at 817-509-3285 or steve.brady@ftw.usda.gov.

Personnel News

Matthew Judy, CNTSC Environmental Compliance Specialist, received special recognition for his work in the State of Texas on NRCS-CPA-52, Environmental Evaluation Worksheet. Matthew provided direct technical assistance in developing the form and related policies, in addition to conducting six 3-hour net meeting training sessions. In all, Matthew trained over 480 NRCS employees and partners to help bring Texas in step with national policy.

Matthew Judy received recognition from the State of Texas.

CNTSC Staff and other friends gathered to wish **Romy Myszka**, CNTSC Biologist, a happy retirement after more than 39 years with the Federal Government, when he retired on April 3, 2010.

Ron Williams (left) presents recognition of service plaque to Romy Myszka (right) at retirement gathering.

A native of Marathon City, Wisconsin on the banks of the Big Rib River, Romy saw active duty in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1966-70, serving two tours in Vietnam with the Ugly Angels helicopter squadron operating in I Corps.

A 1975 graduate of the University of California system with a degree in Fisheries, Romy started with the federal government at the La Jolla, California, National Marine Fisheries Service lab, working on the porpoise/tuna program. He switched to US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and moved to South Dakota in 1977 to assist reservoir investigators looking at larval fish diets on the Missouri River.

In 1980, he began working for SCS as the Ohio state biologist with responsibility for restarting watershed projects halted due to environmental concerns. In 1990, Romy served as the agency's liaison to USEPA's Great Lakes National Program Office in Chicago where he helped develop a multi-million dollar ecological restoration program in the Great Lakes basin.

We'll sure miss Romy and his expertise, but he left us with the following words of wisdom from William Arthur Ward:

- Do more than belong, participate.
- Do more than care, help.
- Do more than believe, practice.
- Do more than be fair, be kind.
- Do more than forgive, forget.
- Do more than dream, work.

CNTSC Calendar

Central Environmental Engineers' Teleconference

July 22, 2010, 10:00 a.m. CDT

Contact **Cherie LaFleur**, CNTSC Environmental Engineer, at 817-509-3303, or cherie.lafleur@ftw.usda.gov

Central State Foresters' Teleconference

August 2, 2010, 1:00 p.m. CDT

Contact **Ray Stoner**, CNTSC Forester, at 817-509-3215, or ray.stoner@ftw.usda.gov

Central State Resource Conservationists' Workgroup Teleconference

August 17, 2010, 11:00 a.m. CDT

September 14, 2010, 11:00 a.m. CDT

Contact **Cheryl Simmons**, CNTSC Technology Specialist, at 817-509-3314, or cheryl.simmons@ftw.usda.gov

Central State Soil Scientists' Technology Workgroup Teleconference

October 7, 2010, 9:00 a.m. CDT

Contact **Edward Griffin**, CNTSC Soil Scientist, at 817-509-3304, or edward.l.griffin@ftw.usda.gov